



State Board of Education
Dr. Gary L. Nixon, Executive Director

Overview of Recent Reforms in Tennessee





Agenda

- 1) How were Tennessee students doing?**
- 2) Key components of Tennessee's recent work to improve student achievement
- 3) How are Tennessee students doing today?



Tennessee students were significantly behind on The Nation's Report Card

- 2007 NAEP, 4th grade math scores – 43rd
- 2007 NAEP, 8th grade math scores – 41st
- 2009 NAEP, 4th grade reading scores – 38th
- 2009 NAEP, 4th grade math scores – 44th
- 2009 NAEP, 8th grade math scores – 42nd



Tennessee students were not proficient or prepared

- Spring 2007-National Chamber of Commerce releases education report card for all states
- Tennessee received an “F” in the category of “Truth in Advertising” when comparing proficiency on Tennessee assessments to National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP)
- Tennessee received an “F” in the category of “Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness”
- Only 15% of Tennessee students were proficient on all four ACT college-readiness benchmarks



**What parents, business leaders, higher education, policymakers, and educators told us
GRADUATES needed:**

- stronger **math and science skills**
- stronger **communication skills**
- ability to **work in teams**
- ability to **think, apply, and use** what they know
- a stronger **work ethic and soft skills**



Agenda

- 1) How were Tennessee students doing?
- 2) **Key components of Tennessee's recent work to improve student achievement**
- 3) How are Tennessee students doing today?



Key components of Tennessee's work to improve student achievement from 2007 to 2014

- Higher standards and aligned assessments
- Effective teaching and leadership
- Data
- School turnaround
- STEM

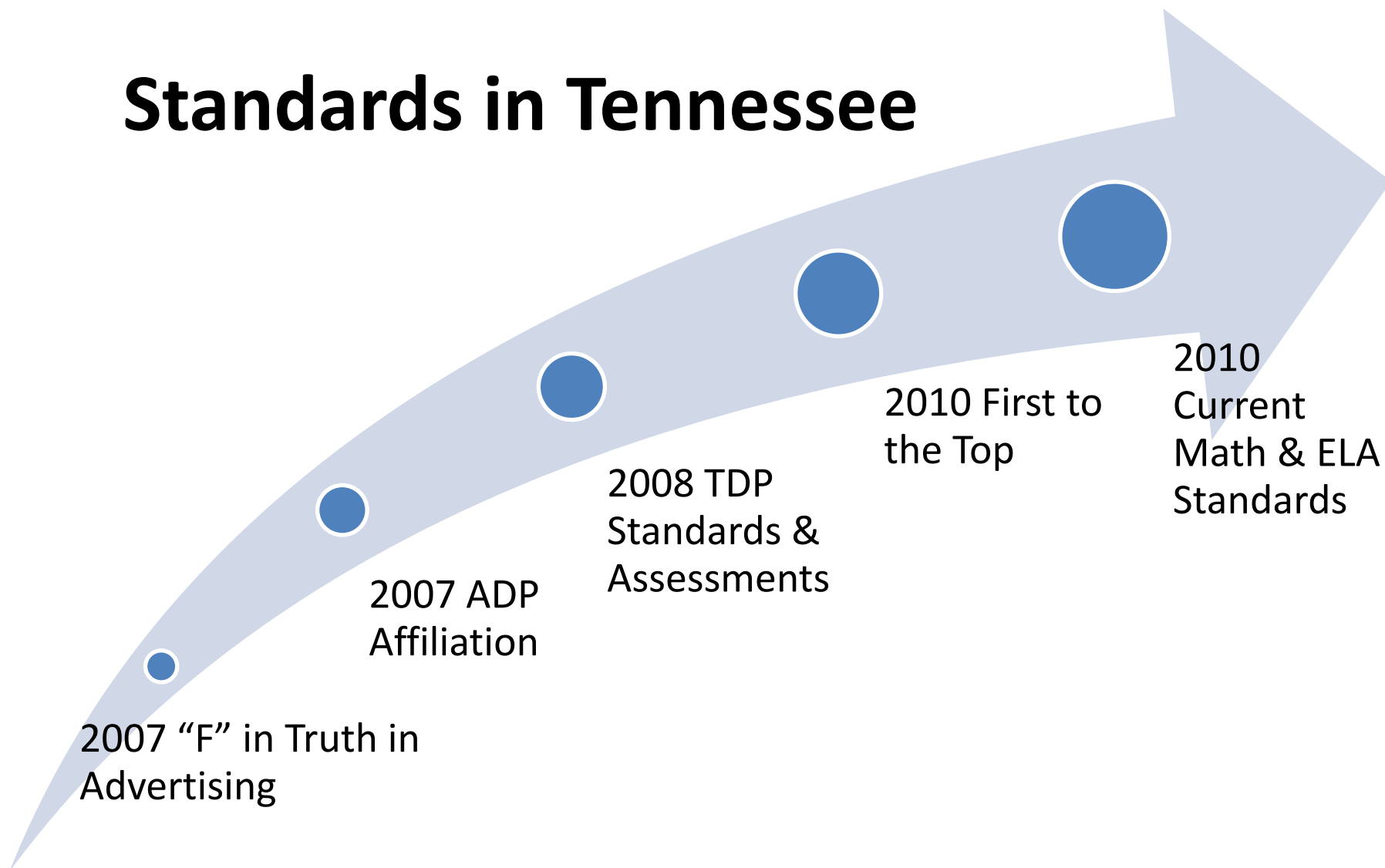


Tennessee Standards and Assessments

- **Tennessee Diploma Project (2008)**
- **TCAP assessment changes to reflect new and higher standards**
- **Common Core State Standards initiative (2010)**
 - The Common Core State Standards initiative was launched by the National Governors Association (NGA) and Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) in 2008.
 - In June 2009, Governor Bredesen and Commissioner Tim Webb joined the Common Core State Standards initiative.
 - On July 30, 2010, Common Core State Standards were adopted by the State Board of Education and became Tennessee's academic standards for ELA and math.



Standards in Tennessee





Effective Teaching and Leadership

- **Effective teaching is the number one school-based factor in improving student achievement**
 - **Rigorous, frequent evaluation (2010 First to the Top Act)**
 - **Ongoing support and individualized professional development**
 - **Teacher compensation**
 - **Tenure**
- **Principal evaluation (2010 First to the Top Act)**



Data

- **Tennessee is using data to help improve instructional practice and student outcomes**
 - Value-added data (TVAAS)
 - Ensuring teachers have access to data
 - Use of data to inform human capital decisions



School Turnaround

- **Tennessee has been committed to efforts to improve low-performing / high-priority schools**
 - **Charter Schools**
 - **Achievement School District**
 - **District Innovation Zones**



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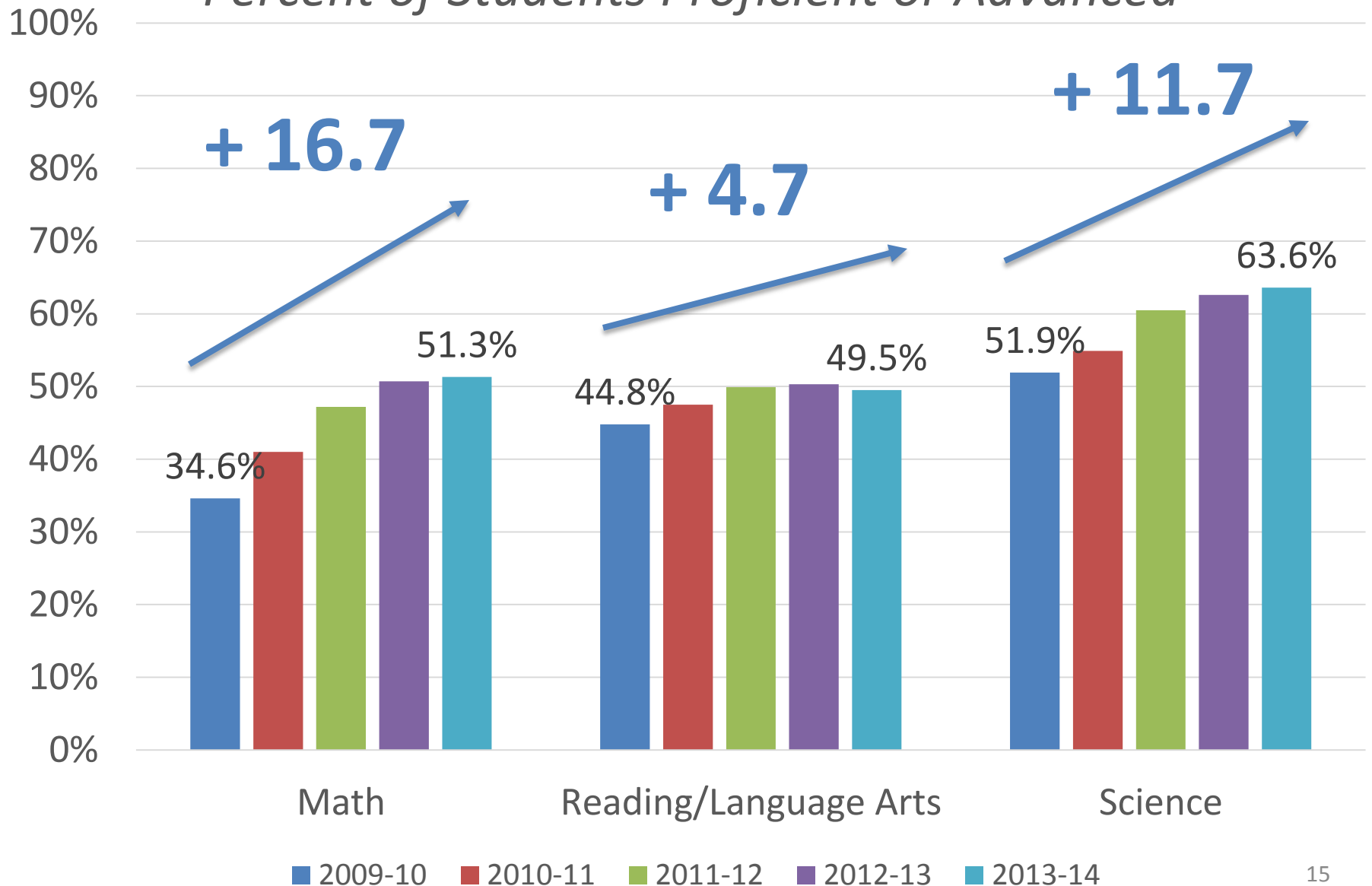
Results

Fastest improving state in the nation on NAEP

	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013
4 th Grade Reading	39 th	39 th	38 th	41 st	31 st
4 th Grade Math	40 th	43 rd	44 th	46 th	37 th
8 th Grade Reading	34 th	35 th	33 rd	41 st	34 th
8 th Grade Math	42 nd	41 st	42 nd	45 th	43 rd

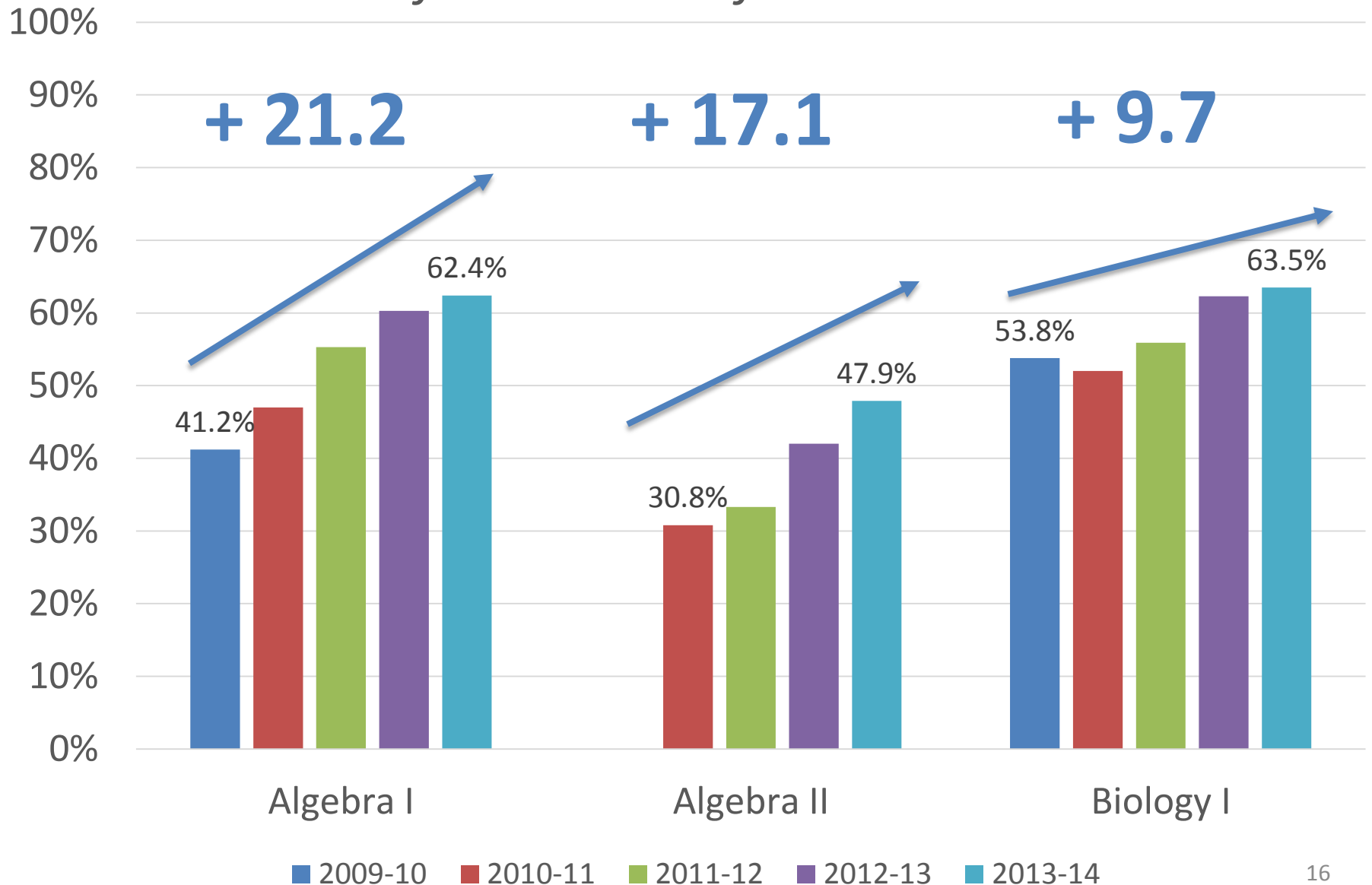
TCAP Grades 3-8 Performance

Percent of Students Proficient or Advanced



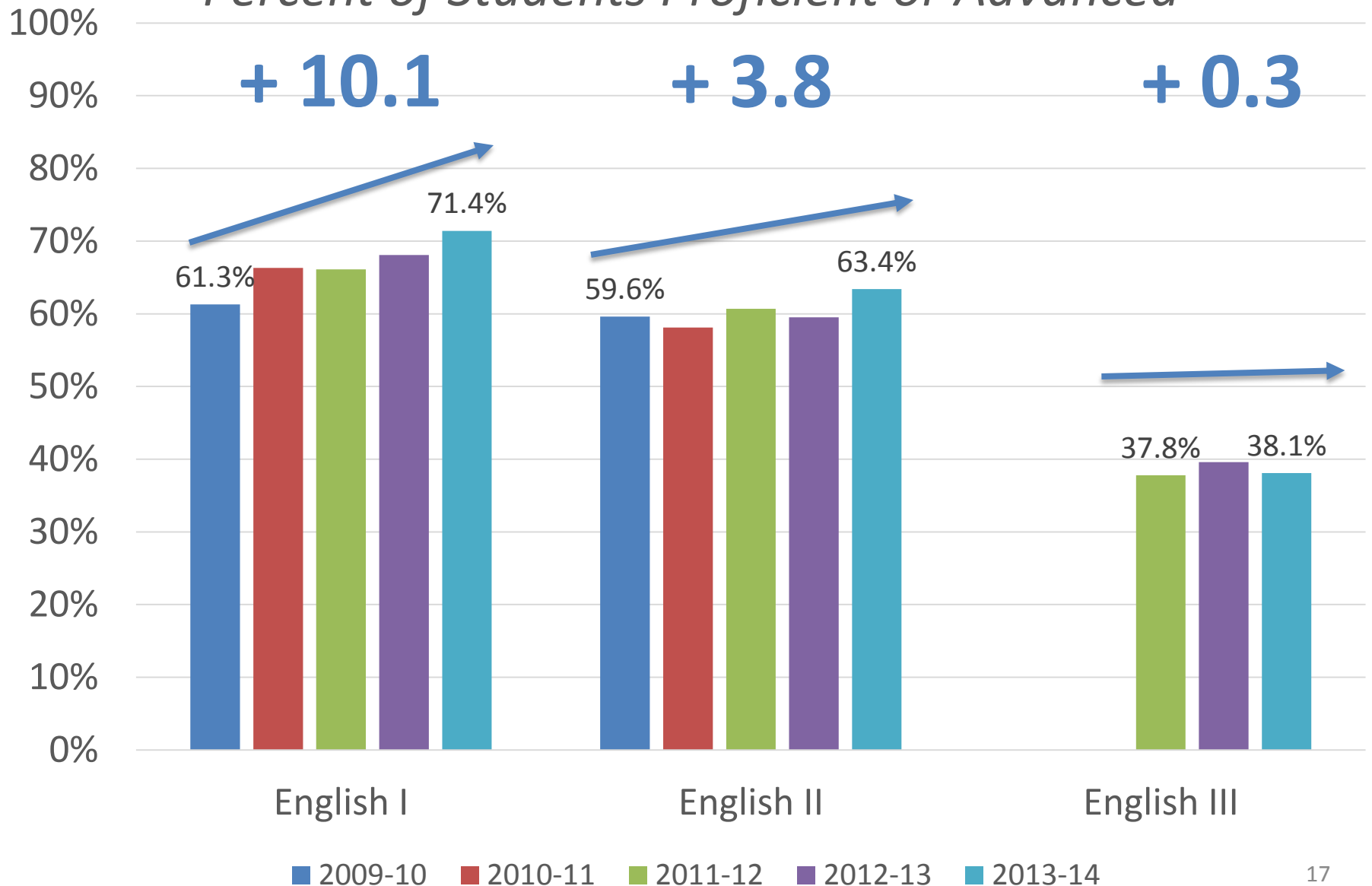
EOC Performance – Math and Science

Percent of Students Proficient or Advanced



EOC Performance English

Percent of Students Proficient or Advanced





More Students Achieving Proficiency

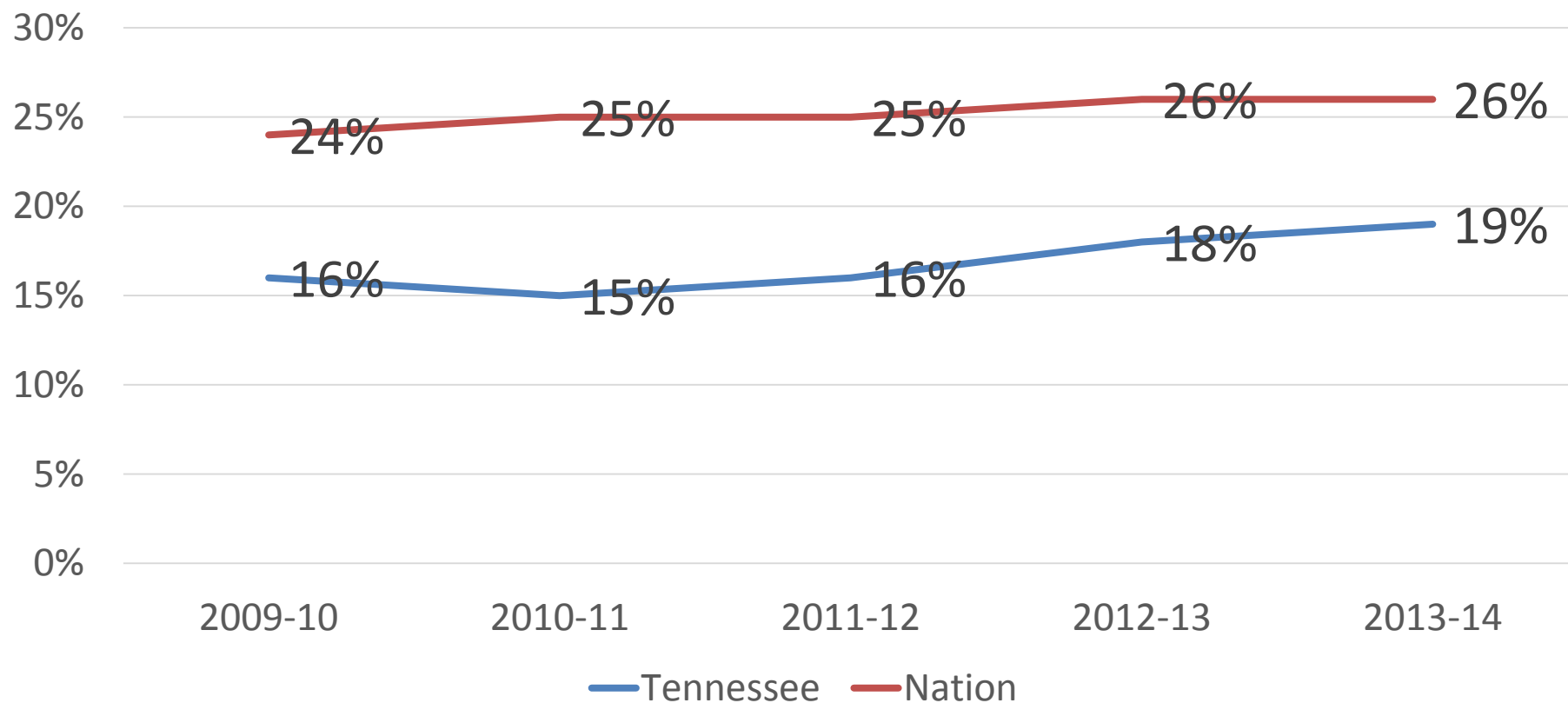
Increase in Proficient Students Since 2010-11

- Nearly 100,000 additional students are proficient in math.
- Over 57,000 additional students are proficient in science.
- Nearly 35,000 additional students are proficient in reading/language arts.



Percent of Students Meeting College Readiness Benchmarks

Tennessee Versus the Nation



ACT Composite Improvement

States Testing More Than 90% of Students in 2012-13 and 2013-14

State	2012-13 ACT Composite	2013-14 ACT Composite	Improvement
Kentucky	19.6	19.9	0.3
Tennessee	19.5	19.8	0.3
Wyoming	19.8	20.1	0.3
Colorado	20.4	20.6	0.2
Michigan	19.9	20.1	0.2
North Carolina	18.7	18.9	0.2
Arkansas	20.2	20.4	0.2
Illinois	20.6	20.7	0.1
Mississippi	18.9	19	0.1
North Dakota	20.5	20.6	0.1
Utah	20.7	20.8	0.1
Louisiana	19.5	19.2	-0.3

TENNESSEE'S EDUCATION SUMMIT:

PROGRESS OF THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH